

CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

Weekly Bulletin



GEORGE E. EBRIGHT, M. D.
PRESIDENT

FRED F. GUNDRUM, M. D.
VICE PRESIDENT

A. J. SCOTT, JR., M. D.

EDWARD F. GLASER, M. D.

ADELAIDE BROWN, M. D.

ROBERT A. PEERS, M. D.

WALTER M. DICKIE, M. D.
SECRETARY AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Entered as second-class matter February 21, 1922, at the post office at Sacramento, California, under the Act of August 24, 1912.

Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917.

Vol. IV, No. 51

JANUARY 30, 1926.

GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

**Respiratory Infections
Become More Prevalent.**

Respiratory infections of all sorts are prevalent in some parts of California at the present time. January, February and March always bring a higher incidence of these infections. Pneumonia exacts its heaviest toll of the year during these months. Investigations conducted by the California State Board of Health indicate the presence of a considerable number of cases of streptococcus infection. There is often a severe prostration accompanying streptococcic infection and cases frequently simulate influenza. Of course, there are a few cases of influenza reported, for this disease is always present in limited numbers. Conditions at present, however, indicate the presence of our old friend, called "la grippe," which was so commonly encountered a score of years ago and which rose and fell in moderate waves, year by year, never rising very high and never exacting a heavy toll of deaths.



**Plan To Make California
National Forests Clean.**

The District Forester of the United States Department of Agriculture, in charge of the national forests of California, is making active plans for making these playgrounds absolutely sanitary. As a first step, he has asked the cooperation of the California State Board of Health in making preliminary surveys and instructing forest officers in approved methods of sanitation.

To date, the forest service has selected about 500 camp sites for camp ground

purposes and as rapidly as funds are available the service is improving these camps by the installation of sanitary conveniences. Some 125 such camps have been so improved. There have been, also, some 265 tracts surveyed into lots for rental for summer home purposes. These tracts have from 5 to 250 lots each. At the present time some 5000 of these lots are rented and occupied for summer home purposes. In addition, there are two or three hundred other permits for resorts, stores and kindred uses of a recreational nature.

These camp grounds and summer home colonies are generally located on or near lakes, streams, or springs which, in many cases, constitute sources of domestic water supply. For this reason, it is evident that a high standard of sanitation must be maintained.

The forest service plans to begin sanitation work early this season in the Los Angeles, Cleveland and San Bernardino forests. These three forests are close to large centers of population and practically all of the waters that flow from them are used for domestic purposes, to a greater or less extent. The importance of sanitation in the forests is further stressed in recognition of the fact that about four million persons, according to the records of the service, enter the California forests each season.



**New Health Officer
Appointed For Pasadena.**

Dr. Warren F. Fox has been appointed city health officer of Pasadena to succeed Dr. Frank W. Hodgdon, Jr., who has

served in this capacity for many years. Dr. Fox's term of office began January 1, 1926.

Sacramento Immunizes Against Diphtheria.

During the month of December 1364 Sacramento children were immunized against diphtheria. This work was done under the direction of the Sacramento Health Department of which Dr. W. W. Cress is health officer and Dr. G. J. Hall director of the Municipal Clinic.

Physician Prosecuted For Not Filing Birth Certificates.

Dr. J. L. Pomeroy, health officer of Los Angeles County, has prosecuted, successfully, a physician of his district who has consistently failed to file birth certificates, as required by law. Incidentally, it was discovered that this physician had also failed to register his certificate as physician and surgeon with the county health department, as required. The State Board of Medical Examiners prosecuted him on this charge, upon conviction of which, he was fined \$100.

Health Officer Sends Letter To Parents.

Dr. W. W. Cress, city health officer of Sacramento, has adopted the practice of sending a letter to the parents of every baby born in his city. This communication reads as follows:

"A certificate of birth of your baby has been filed for record in this office. As a representative of the City of Sacramento allow me to congratulate you and to wish the little one a long life of health and happiness. The future welfare of your baby depends largely upon the care he receives during his early childhood. Practically all of the deaths that occur during early childhood are a result of infectious diseases.

More than three hundred children are attacked by diphtheria every year in Sacramento. This infection could be prevented if all children were immunized against this disease.

At the age of one year he should be given the toxin-antitoxin treatment for the prevention of diphtheria. The treatment is simple and practically guarantees that he will be immune from this disease throughout life.

Smallpox, a preventable disease, takes its annual toll of lives.

With the welfare of all children in mind, we urgently advise that when the little one is a month old you take him to your family physician for weighing, general observation and for vaccination against smallpox.

We trust that you will give this matter your thoughtful consideration.

W. W. CRESS, Health Officer."

Vitamine E Takes Place of Unknown.

Vitamine X is now Vitamine E, the change having been made because the experiments of the discoverers, Dr. Herbert M. Evans and Dr. K. S. Bishop of the Anatomy Department of the University of California, have been checked and verified. Dr. Barnett Sure of the University of Arkansas, after repeating the California experiments and verifying the results, suggested the change be made from X, signifying an unknown quantity, to E, a known vitamine, on a parity with the first four discovered.

Vitamine E, a complex organic compound like the other four, controls reproduction in animals, and is found in such foods as lettuce, wheat germ, alfalfa and egg yolk. By experiments with rats, Dr. Evans demonstrated that the absence of this food factor produces sterility; but that these same animals, given a diet containing this factor, regain fertility. It is pointed out that the diet of the human race is such that this food factor is almost invariably included, and the discovery can have little importance as regards people.

Dr. Evans at present is engaged in a study of the hypophysis of one of the glands of internal secretions which have been found to regulate growth in young animals.

To carry on the extensive research of which these two discoveries have been but a beginning, Dr. Evans has been the recipient of funds amounting to \$10,500 from endowments other than those given as appropriations from the regular university funds. Of the sum mentioned, \$7,500 was from the National Research Council on Sex Problems, and three gifts of \$1,000 each were received from prominent Californians.

With a corps of about ten or twelve assistants, Dr. Evans is continuing research in this field, and expects to be engaged for some years in seeking for knowledge of these phases of the life process, and their allied subjects.

Piedmont Appoints**New Health Officer.**

Dr. Harry F. Smith has been appointed City Health Officer of Piedmont, to succeed Dr. Arthur Fibush.

**Board Appoints New Assistant Epidemiologist.**

Dr. P. M. Elwood has been appointed Assistant Epidemiologist of the California State Board of Health and has already entered upon his duties. Dr. Elwood is a graduate of the Rush Medical College and served his internship at Stanford University Hospital, San Francisco. He has just returned to California, after taking a course of training at the International Health Board Training Station, Andalusia, Alabama. The personnel of the Division of Epidemiology of the Board is as follows: Dr. Charles H. Halliday, Epidemiologist; Miss Ida May Stevens and Dr. P. M. Elwood, Assistant Epidemiologists.

**Mosquito Fish Travel to Foreign Countries.**

Following the introduction into California, by the State Board of Health, of the mosquito fish (*Gambusia affinis*), a supply of these useful members of the finny tribe was sent to the Steinhart Aquarium in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. They have multiplied as prodigiously under aquarium conditions as they do in their native pools. The California Academy of Sciences, which controls the Steinhart Aquarium, has sent colonies of these little fishes to many distant parts of the world.

At the request of J. B. Coryell and R. R. Strange of San Francisco, 200 were sent, November 2, 1925, to Father Rougier at Papeete, Tahiti. The academy has been advised of the safe arrival of the fishes, which are to be used in stocking ponds at Papeete. At a later date another supply will be sent to Father Rougier for stocking ponds on Christmas Island.

The academy has, during the past year, sent supplies of these top-minnows to India, Philippine Islands and other places in the Far East. The *Gambusia affinis* is noted for its adaptability to a wide variety of living conditions. It is an important factor in mosquito control, for its appetite for mosquito larvæ is most voracious. At the Steinhart Aquarium the *Gambusia affinis* is regarded as one of the most useful of all fishes.

MORBIDITY.***Diphtheria.**

112 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 39, Los Angeles County 11, Santa Ana 10, San Diego 8, San Francisco 7, Orange County 6, Stockton 6, Pasadena 2, Huntington Park 1, Compton 2, Alhambra 1, Glendale 1, Fresno 1, Fresno County 1, Oakland 2, Burbank 1, Salinas 1, Watts 2, Long Beach 2, Kern County 1, San Jose 1, Berkeley 1, Fullerton 1, Monterey County 2, Monterey 1, Anaheim 1.

Measles.

43 cases of measles have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 11, Los Angeles County 6, San Francisco 8, San Diego 3, Tulare County 1, Oakland 3, Burbank 1, San Bernardino 3, Long Beach 1, Pasadena 1, Santa Monica 1, Ventura County 2, Berkeley 1, Hawthorne 1.

Scarlet Fever.

156 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 32, Los Angeles County 20, San Francisco 20, Long Beach 16, Tulare County 7, Oakland 7, Santa Ana 5, Berkeley 1, Sonoma County 2, Sacramento 3, Orange County 3, Santa Clara County 1, South Gate 1, Napa County 1, Bakersfield 1, Fullerton 1, Burbank 2, Fresno County 3, Fresno 1, Richmond 1, Glendale 2, San Jose 2, Ventura County 1, Livermore 1, Riverside 2, Hanford 1, San Diego 4, Torrance 1, Tehama County 1, Stockton 2, San Joaquin County 1, Alameda County 1, Callexico 1, Williams 1, San Gabriel 1, Lake County 1, Anaheim 1, Pasadena 2, San Bernardino County 1, Santa Barbara 1.

Smallpox.

95 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 44, Oakland 19, Los Angeles County 16, Sacramento 5, Sonoma County 1, Madera 1, Riverside 1, Long Beach 1, Hawthorne 2, Watts 1, Burbank 1, San Francisco 1, Pasadena 2.

Typhoid Fever.

11 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: San Bernardino 2, Pittsburg 2, Sacramento 1, Los Angeles 4, Riverside 1, Calaveras County 1.

Whooping Cough.

48 cases of whooping cough have been reported, as follows: Oakland 9, Santa Barbara 9, Alameda 2, Colusa County 3, Berkeley 2, San Bernardino 1, Orange County 4, San Jose 3, San Mateo 2, Alameda County 1, Los Angeles 3, San Diego 3, Tulare County 1, Stockton 1, Long Beach 1, San Francisco 1, Pasadena 2.

Epidemic Meningitis.

8 cases of epidemic meningitis have been reported, as follows: Humboldt County 1, San Francisco 2, Los Angeles 3, Oakland 1, Richmond 1.

Poliomyelitis.

Pasadena reported one case of poliomyelitis.

*From reports received on January 25th and 26th for week ending January 23d.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES BY AGE GROUPS, DECEMBER.

	0-1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+	Adult
Chickenpox	22	194	715	129	45	6	24	6	2	1	18
Diphtheria	12	128	194	70	32	29	45	31	11	3	8
German Measles	1	5	3	2							
Malaria						1	1			1	
Measles	17	43	47	12	4		3	1	1		20
Mumps	3	87	428	265	69	26	40	13	7	2	28
Pneumonia	24	31	20	20	15	12	46	46	40	118	1
Scarlet Fever	3	156	288	128	27	24	29	15	5		2
Smallpox	6	19	37	27	27	18	38	32	13	13	12
Typhoid Fever		3	6	6	12	7	9	11	3		
Whooping Cough	39	103	121	12		1	2			3	19
Anthrax											
Meningitis	3	5		3	6		1	1		1	2
Dysentery (Bacillary)	3	2						1		3	
Erysipelas	5	4	2	2		1	3	7	11	16	1
Gonorrhoea		1	12	3	46	146	135	47	16	1	26
Leprosy										1	
Pellagra								1	2	6	
Poliomyelitis	1	7	6	6				2	1		
Syphilis	4	4	11	1	27	91	144	112	59	45	15
Tetanus		1						3			
Trachoma			4	4	1		1				2
Encephalitis	2			1		2	2	3	1	1	
Paratyphoid								1			
Beri-Beri						1					
Trichinosis							1		1		

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS.

	1925-1926				1924-1925			
	Week ending			Reports for week ending Jan. 23 received by Jan. 26	Week ending			Reports for week ending Jan. 24 received by Jan. 27
	Jan. 2	Jan. 9	Jan. 16		Jan. 3	Jan. 10	Jan. 17	
Anthrax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Botulism	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chickenpox	220	313	321	254	249	346	360	268
Diphtheria	81	90	97	112	156	142	145	151
Dysentery (Bacillary)	0	0	0	0	5	3	0	0
Epidemic Encephalitis	3	1	1	0	2	1	0	2
Epidemic Meningitis	4	5	4	8	2	0	2	1
Gonorrhoea	75	112	121	108	66	118	74	160
Influenza	186	466	683	881	23	38	25	53
Leprosy	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malaria	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Measles	30	44	45	43	35	37	51	48
Mumps	169	299	227	275	106	121	188	151
Pneumonia (lobar)	73	129	95	95	140	98	90	87
Poliomyelitis	2	1	1	1	4	4	2	4
Scarlet Fever	138	173	159	156	128	163	174	174
Smallpox	54	81	173	95	121	123	198	179
Syphilis	87	147	105	95	75	197	111	151
Tuberculosis	126	170	196	179	158	197	289	161
Typhoid Fever	10	16	16	11	22	23	6	11
Whooping Cough	70	109	126	48	64	139	145	158
Totals	1329	2157	2370	2361	1357	1750	1861	1759